



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS TO BE HELD
ON HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

SACRAMENTO -- The CALFED Bay-Delta Program will hold three public scoping meetings in Northern California on the preparation of a Habitat Conservation Plan: Tuesday, September 23, 7 to 9 p.m., at the Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J St., Tuesday, September 30, 7 to 9 p.m., at the Los Banos Fairgrounds in the Germino Building, and Tuesday, October 14, 7 to 9 p.m., at the Berkeley Marina Marriott, 200 Marina Blvd. Anyone interested in learning about the CALFED Bay-Delta Program or commenting on issues relating to the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan for the Program should attend this meeting.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort among state and federal agencies and the public to ensure a healthy ecosystem, reliable water supplies, good quality water, and stable levees in California's Bay-Delta. The Bay-Delta is an intricate web of waterways created at the junction of the San Francisco Bay with California's two largest rivers, the Sacramento and the San Joaquin. It is the largest estuary on the west coast and the hub of California's water system.

CALFED is expanding the scope of its programmatic Environmental Impact

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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Report/Environmental Impact Statement to include preparation of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and/or Natural Community Conservation Plan. A Habitat Conservation Plan is a tool that can be used to promote long-term habitat protection and recovery of threatened and endangered species.

The purpose of CALFED's Habitat Conservation Plan is to provide comprehensive, long-term conservation strategies that will allow for the recovery of any listed species (e.g., threatened and/or endangered plants or animals) and not contribute to the need to list additional species under the Federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act. Under such a plan, participants could be assured that, in the event of unforeseen circumstances affecting those species, no additional land, funds or restrictions on covered Program actions will be required.

Public participation is essential to the CALFED process. In addition to the scoping meeting for the Habitat Conservation Plan, CALFED will hold a number of public meetings throughout the state later this fall to allow interested individuals to learn about the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and comment on issues they believe are important.

Those requiring special assistance are asked to contact CALFED to secure the needed services. A telephone device for the hearing impaired (TDD) is available from TDD phones at 1-800-735-2929 and from voice phones at 1-800-735-2922.

For further information, call CALFED at (916) 657-2666 or visit the CALFED website at <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

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The attached news release was distributed on September 12, 1997, to the following:

Print

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Fresno Bee
Hanford Sentinel
Holister Free Lance
Madera Tribune
Merced Sun-Star
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Porterville Recorder
Ridgecrest Dailt Independent
The County Telegram-Tribune
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Livingston Chronicle
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Merced County Times
Mojave Desert News
The West Side Index
Sirra Star
Parller Post
The Patterson Irrigator
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